

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A casting process comprising the steps of:
mixing one or more kind of an aggregate granular material, one or more kind of a water-soluble binder, and water, to form a mixture of said aggregate granular material, and stirring said mixture to cause it to foam;

charging said foamed mixture into a molding space, and evaporating the moisture within said charged mixture to harden said charged mixture to mold a mold with said hardened mixture;

assembling at least one mold that is cast in said hardened mixture and ~~[[the]]~~a mating mold to form a completed mold;

pouring molten metal into said completed mold;

removing said completed mold from a cast article that is composed of the solidified molten metal during a process of cooling said cast article after said molten metal solidifies; and

applying a heat treatment to said cast article~~[[.]]~~.

wherein said one or more kind of said water-soluble binder is at least either a polyvinyl alcohol or a derivative thereof, or at least either a starch or a derivative thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A casting ~~processes~~process as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one mold that is cast in said hardened mixture is a core, and said mating mold is a master mold.

3. (Currently Amended) A casting ~~processes~~process as recited in claim 2, wherein said master mold is a metal mold.

4. (Currently Amended) A casting ~~processes~~process as recited in claim 2, wherein said master mold is a sand mold.

5. (Currently Amended) A casting process as recited in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, further comprising steps of returning said aggregate granular material, and recovering said returned aggregate granular material.

6. (Original) A casting process as recited in claim 5, further comprising steps of recycling and using said returned and recovered aggregate granular material for molding a mold.

7. (Original) A casting process as recited in claim 5 or 6, wherein said steps of returning and recovering said aggregate granular material are mechanical recovering processes.

8. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A casting process as recited in ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said cast article is cast in an aluminum alloy or a magnesium alloy.

9. (Withdrawn) A casting process as recited in claim 8, wherein said heat treatment is a T6 treatment or a T7 treatment.

10. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A casting process as recited in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein said cast article is cast in a casting iron, a casting steel, or a ferrous alloy.

11. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A casting process as recited in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein said cast article is cast in a copper alloy.

12. (Currently Amended) A casting process as recited in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, wherein said step of removing said completed mold from said cast article is to apply shakes ~~[[in]]~~to said mold.

13. (Currently Amended) A casting process as recited in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 12, wherein said step of applying said shakes ~~[[in]]~~to said mold includes impact forces of less than 1MPa at an operating frequency at less than 30Hz being applied ~~[[in]]~~to said mold for less than 30 seconds, within from 5 to 20 minutes after said molten metal is poured.

14-15. (Cancelled).